



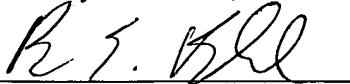
Independent claim 16 has been amended to include all of the elements of original claim 15, as well as to indicate that the digitally signed license is received by the software distribution server from the client computer. As indicated in the Office Action, Puhl does not teach or suggest this element. The Office Action then turned to Tardo to supply the missing element. The Applicants submit that Tardo does not teach or suggest claim 16 as amended. In particular, the digitally signed license is not provided by the client computer in Tardo; but rather by the Licensing Authority or License Verification Module, neither of which is or resides on the client computer. (See Figure 1, Col. 5, lines 52-57, and Col. 7, lines 40-55.) For at least this reason, claim 16, as well as dependent claims 17-21, are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

In addition, claims 3, 4, and 11 have been amended to remove elements that have been indicated in the Office Action as residing in the references. The cited references do not teach or suggest the amended claims. Accordingly, for at least these additional reasons, claims 3, 4, and 11 are patentable over the cited references and the Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

By the foregoing explanations, Applicants believe that this response has responded fully to all of the concerns expressed in the Office Action, and believe that it has placed each of the pending claims in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. Should any further aspects of the application remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Dated: April 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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